

Perm. Petersburg

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Souvenir Program
of the
Dedication
of
***Petersburg General
Hospital***



Petersburg, Alaska, January 16, 1955

**Hospital Building
Committee**

Willmer Oines, Chairman
L. Adolph Mathisen, Secretary
Knut Thompson
Claire Wilder
Ernest Haugen
Andrew Wikan
Carl Anderson
Magnus Martens
Gordon Jensen
Jack DeZordo

Town Council

Ernest J. Haugen, Mayor
Knut Thompson
Willmer Oines
Andrew Wikan
Verner Israelson
Erling Nicholson
James Hammer
James Taylor, City Clerk
Mrs. Frank Barnreiter,
Hospital Superintendent

Program

FLAG RAISING CEREMONY AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Petersburg Boy Scouts:
Scoutmasters Ed Hagerman and R. Bain

STAR SPANGLED BANNER

Town Band
Organized by George Peterson

INVOCATION AND BLESSING OF BUILDING

Pastor John Hopp

WELCOME

Mayor Ernest J. Haugen

DEDICATION

Ed Locken

PRESENTATION OF KEYS

Willmer Oines, Chairman of Building Committee
to Mayor Haugen; Mayor Haugen to Mrs Frank
Barnreiter, Superintendent

CUTTING OF RIBBON AND INVITATION TO TEA

Mrs. Russel Smith, President of Hospital Guild

HONORED GUESTS

Governor B. Frank Heintzleman

Dr. C. E. Albrecht

Delegate E. L. "Bob" Bartlett

Representative and Mrs. Edward Locken

Linn A. Forrest, Architect

Dr. Russell C. Smith

Mr. and Mrs. C. A. Wilder

DEDICATION TEA

(2 to 5 P.M.)

Mrs. Carroll Clausen, Chairman,
Assisted by Hospital Guild Members

HISTORY OF PETERSBURG GENERAL HOSPITAL

September 19, 1908 the property on which the old hospital stands, Lots 6-7-8 of Block 5, were purchased from the Pacific Coast and Norway Packing Company for the sum of \$200.00 by Charles Smith. Mr. Smith, a prospector had previously discovered and developed a mine on Wotwodski Island which he sold to the Olympic Mining Co. for a sum believed to be approximately, \$10,000.00

Louis Miller then built the home for Mr. and Mrs. Smith which they occupied until 1917 when it was sold to the Petersburg Hospital Association for the sum of \$3,500.00. Deed to the property was executed February 23, 1917 and conveyed to L. Kracke, Louis Vick, Erick Ness, Rasmus Enge and Thomas Lando as Directors of the Hospital Association by Charles and Ida Smith.

No records of the Hospital Association are available but it is recalled that funds for purchase and equipment of the Hospital were raised by issuing certificates of membership in denominations of \$20.00 each. It is evident that insufficient funds were raised in this manner because on May 23, 1917 the Directors mortgaged the property to Erick Ness for a loan of \$1,500.00. The mortgage was discharged December 29, 1919.

On December 5, 1921 the Town Council minutes read:

"Messrs Wheeler and Tveten appeared on behalf of the Hospital Board relative to the matter of turning the hospital over to the Town. Mr. Wheeler reported that the majority of stockholders have already declared themselves in favor of turning their stock over to the Town and that the rest of them are signing such agreement as readily as they are approached upon the subject. Mr. Tveten informed the Council that the Hospital owes approximately \$4,500.00 at this time, and that accounts receivable amount to about \$800.00 of which \$600.00 are good accounts."

At this time Ed Locken was Mayor and the Council members were: J. L. MacKechnie, Frank Rayner, Earl N. Ohmer, Russell York, Carl E. Swanson, and William Gribble. After a special meeting of the Council the regular meeting of December 19, 1921 brought forth a resolution and agreement to purchase the Hospital for \$1.00 and the Town to pay indebtedness of \$5,147.55 under an Escrow Agreement signed by, Petersburg Hospital Association, James H. Wheeler, President; Carl E. Swanson, Treasurer; Andrew Wikan, and Christ Tveten, Secretary.

The Deed to the Hospital property was executed May 1, 1922 and signed by James H. Wheeler, President; Christ Tveten, Secretary; Carl E. Swanson and Andrew Wikan as Directors of the Petersburg Hospital Association.

On March 19, 1923 the Council authorized the first payment of one-third of the Hospital indebtedness which amounted to \$1,298.36.

Minutes of the Council, July 2, 1923 reveal that Mr. Cornelius of the Hospital Committee suggested running an advertisement in the local newspaper setting forth that the Hospital is equipped with X-Ray and other modern apparatus.

In July, 1925 the Hospital Building was offered for rent as living quarters to Mr. Haven for \$25.00 per month. October 20,

1925 Dr. MacKenzie was offered the lower floor of the hospital for \$50.00 per month.

March 1926, another payment of one-third was made on the hospital indebtedness.

May 6, 1929 Rev. W. J. Maakestad appeared before the Council to establish a General Hospital in Petersburg and submitted a proposal from Rev. Kildal of the Board of Charities Department of the Lutheran Church. The estimated cost of reconditioning the hospital was \$1,500.00 and this was authorized June 3, 1929 in anticipation of Dr. Rude coming to Petersburg to practice.

In August, 1929 Mayor Earl N. Ohmer appointed a Hospital Board composed of Rev. Maakestad, Chairman; C. E. Swanson, Charles Greenaa, Jacob Otness and Fred Nelson. This Board was later dissolved in favor of the Council taking over the responsibility of operating the hospital, which has been the policy ever since.

In March, 1945 House Bill No. 54, introduced by Mr. Fred Hanford, Representative, authorizing \$27,500.00 toward the cost of constructing a hospital building for Petersburg was passed. June 5, 1945 a special election was held for the authorization of matching bonds in the amount of \$27,500.00.

February, 1946 the Hospital Building Fund received the amount of \$6,423.42 in cash plus the building on Indian Street from the Estate of Charles W. Johnson in accordance with his will.

Early 1952 Councilman Willmer Oines started contacting architects with reference to hospital plans. Mrs. Clausen and Mrs. Stokke, representing the Hospital Guild, appeared before the Council on February 4, with a sketch of a hospital plan as worked out by Miss Mina Olsen and members of the Guild.

In October, 1952 the Council approved purchase of the two lots from John Grebstad for \$2,500.00 and also at this meeting Mr. Linn Forrest was selected as Architect for the Hospital and he agreed to a flat fee basis of \$6,000.00 in view of the fact that we would be constructing the building with partial volunteer labor and no contract would be let.

On November 5, 1952 Mayor Claire Wilder appointed a Hospital Building Committee of Willmer Oines, Knut Thompson, and Ernest Haugen, all Council Members, and Gordon Jensen, Carl Anderson, Jack DeZordo, Magnus Martens and Adolph Mathisen. The group selected Willmer Oines, Chairman and Adolph Mathisen, Secretary and this was the permanent building committee until the completion of the Hospital. The middle of November saw the actual start of excavation for the basement of our Hospital.

After several trips by Mayor Wilder, Ed Locken, Representative, and a call by Adolph Mathisen on Dr. Albrecht, also letters and wires to the Territorial Board of Health, in July, 1953 we received a grant of \$100,000.00 from the Territory.

October, 1953 Ernest Haugen was elected Mayor and Andrew Wikan was appointed Council Member of the Hospital Committee.

Early in 1954 it was decided there was not sufficient funds to complete the building and an application was made to the Alaska Public Works for \$25,000.00 to complete the building.

The value of the Hospital completed and furnished is estimated in the neighborhood of \$175,000.00, which includes estimated value of donated labor, freight, gravel and many other donated items. Approximately 803 hours of labor was donated work on the building which is in addition to the many hours donated by the Hospital Building Committee.

